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U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

GRD accomplishes much in 3 years

Gulf Region Division
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

BAGHDAD, Iraq – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Gulf Region Division marked its third year in Iraq on January 25, 2007, with ceremonies at USACE offices around the country.

In 2004, GRD began its mission of rebuilding the country with just 200 projects. Today, GRD has 3,786 planned projects at a program cost of \$12.05 billion, and has completed 3,078 of those projects at a program cost of \$8.34 billion from the \$13.4 billion portion of the Relief and Reconstruction Fund and Developmental Fund of Iraq.

Including GRD support for additional projects under the Commander's Emergency Response Program, Iraq Security Forces Economic Support Funds, GRD has planned more than 4,300 projects and completed nearly 3,200. Combined, through efforts throughout the theater from units in the field and other construction agencies, more than 10,000 reconstruction projects, large and small, have been completed in Iraq.

When GRD was activated, Lt. Gen. Ricardo S. Sanchez, commanding general of Combined Joint Task Force 7, said the new division "underscores the coalition's absolute commitment to working hand-in-hand with the Iraqi people, their ministries and national government to improve the quality of life for all Iraqis and establish an enduring, safe and secure environment in which a democratic government can thrive."

Hampered by an infrastructure that had greatly deteriorated under the former regime, GRD works closely with other federal agencies, governmental agencies and the people of Iraq to restore and improve essential services throughout the country.

To that end, GRD has made a lasting impact in Iraq's infrastructure and essential services. Since 2004:

- In the electrical sector, 302 projects - 263 distribution, 23 generation, 12 transmission, and four monitoring, control and communication projects.
- In the oil sector, 93 projects – in capacity building, infrastructure, water injection systems and exportation.
- In the water sector, 260 projects - 117 water treatment, 114 water distribution, 13 sewage collection projects.
- In the facilities sector, 1279 projects – in schools, hospitals, clinics, border forts and fire stations projects.

The effects of these projects are already being recognized throughout the country of Iraq:

- Of 1,879 megawatts planned, 1,420 megawatts have been added and restored increasing the capacity of electrical power to 1.3 million households (6.5 million Iraqis or 20 percent of the population). Due to increased generation and equitable distribution of services, 75 percent of the country now receives nearly twice as much power as before the war.
- Current oil exportation is near 2.5 million barrels per day, with an end goal of 3 million barrels per day. In addition, refined fuels has improved with an improvement of natural gas production of 230 million standard cubic feet per day and liquefied petroleum gas production capacity increased postwar by 700 tons per day, compared to pre-war levels.

- Of the 1.1 million cubic meters per day of potable water planned, 434,000 cubic meters per day of water treatment capacity has been achieved. The projects provide potable water capacity to approximately 2.2 million Iraqi people (8 percent of population). The 702,000 cubic meters per day of water treatment capacity under construction, an additional 3 million Iraqi people will have access for a total 5.2 million (20 percent of the Iraq population).
- In addition, GRD projects have employed more than 30,000 Iraqis on average during the last year.
- Multiple facility projects across the country have added to the recently reported "economic boom" in Iraq:
 - Completed 320 kilometers of village roads. An additional 107 kilometers of village road projects is planned.
 - Completed five port projects increasing port support for 50 ships per day. This accounts for 60 percent of port capacity in Iraq.
 - More than 150 Primary Healthcare Centers are completed or under construction. Of the 20 hospital renovations planned - seven are ongoing with 13 completed. These projects increase the capacity to treat about 3.25 million patients annually in hospitals and 630,000 outpatients annually at the PHCs, which is 10 percent of the patient population.
 - Renovation or construction of 839 schools is complete improving quality learning environments for 500,000 kindergarten through 8th-grade students (9 percent of the total amount of students/schools).
 - Completed construction of more than 150 border forts and 10 Point of Entry facilities.
 - Completed renovation on 90 fire stations, representing 30 percent of total number of fire stations providing firefighting services for Iraq.
 - Completed work on 30 courthouses with nine on-going.
 - Constructing/rehabilitating four correctional facilities that will provide 4,090 beds and improving capacity by 1,700 more. This will increase new beds by 43 percent and improve 18 percent of existing bed space.

"The only thing more impressive than the magnitude of what we have accomplished," said Brig. Gen. Michael J. Walsh, who took command of GRD in October 2006, "is the environment in which we are doing it."

"As the security environment changes, we must adapt and continue. However, we cannot forget the human cost of our efforts. We push forward so that our comrades' sacrifices are not in vain," Walsh continued, paying homage to those who gave their lives for this mission.

The GRD mission continues in 2007 as it executes the remaining construction projects under the IRRF, DFI, CERP, ISFF and other appropriations. GRD also works with the Government of Iraq on programs to develop the capacity of the Iraqi people to assist in the completion of reconstruction efforts in their country, as to improve operation and maintenance of these new systems.

"We've accomplished a lot in these short three years," Walsh said. "But we have a lot left to do as we continue to lay the foundation for this country to prosper."

Elements of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers were in Iraq as early as March 2003. Multiple task forces working on oil and electrical infrastructure, and field engineering teams were unified under the single command of the Gulf Region Division Jan. 25, 2004, and commanded by Maj. Gen. Ronald L. Johnson.

Note: Contact the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Gulf Region Division by calling 540-665-5339 or emailing cegrd.pao@tac01.usace.army.mil for more information on the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Iraq, or visit our Web site at www.grd.usace.army.mil

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